



Local Communities: actions to help pollinators

www.pollinators.ie



If you want to help implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan it is important to think about providing:

food, shelter & safety



A. Identify and protect existing areas that are good for pollinators

**FOOD &
SHELTER**

Action 1: Protect existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators



- ✓ Flowering hedgerows (food)
- ✓ Patches of wildflowers on waste ground (food)
- ✓ Small wild areas with bramble/ivy (food)
- ✓ Existing earth banks (shelter)
- ✓ Dry stone walls (shelter)



B. Reduce the frequency of mowing of grassy areas

FOOD



Dara Stanley

Action 2: Reduce mowing and aim to create a wildflower meadow



Juanita Browne

Action 3: Create a short flowering '6-week meadow'



Dara Stanley



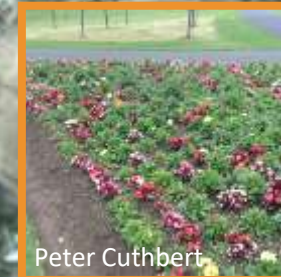
Action 4: Let the Dandelions bloom! Cut as normal, but first cut is not before April. This allows Dandelions to flower but not set seed

C. Pollinator friendly planting

FOOD



Action 5: Clover lawn. Areas where grass is replaced with a permanent clover mix



Peter Cuthbert



Tom Cuffe

Action 6: Plant a mix of pollinator friendly trees & shrubs to flower from spring-autumn

Action 8: Annual flowers for pollinators. Ensure a component of annual planting is with pollinator friendly annual plants



Andrena McDonagh

Action 7: Plant a mix of pollinator friendly perennial plants to flower from spring-autumn



Dara Stanley

Action 9: Some urban planters or hanging baskets with perennial pollinator friendly plants

C. Pollinator friendly planting

FOOD



Peter Cuthbert



Peter Cuthbert

Action 10: Pollinator friendly roundabouts.
Some roundabouts planted in a pollinator friendly way with bulbs or pollinator friendly perennials



Action 11: Plant a native wildflower meadow.
Source seed in Ireland and ensure that you plant pollinator friendly species.

D: Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat: hedgerows, earth banks and hotels

SHELTER

Bumblebees (20 species)



Action 12: Hedgerows for bumblebee nesting

Mining solitary bees (62 species)



Action 13: Earth banks and drystone walls for solitary bee nesting

Cavity nesting solitary bees (15 species)



Action 14: Drill holes in wooden fence posts for solitary bee nesting

Action 15: Incorporate small number of solitary bee nest boxes



E. Reduce the use of pesticides

SAFETY

Action 16: Eliminate the use of pesticides

- ✓ Identify streets/areas where your group is willing to take responsibility for manual weed control
- ✓ Most pesticide use is along edging or tree bases that mowers can't access. Identify small areas of south facing edging that could not be sprayed to provide solitary bee nesting habitat

Action 17: Ensure best practise where the use of pesticides cannot be avoided

- ✓ Follow manufacturer guidelines exactly
- ✓ Spot treat rather than blanket spray
- ✓ Spray in dry conditions with low wind speed to prevent drifting
- ✓ Spray after sunset to avoid direct contact of pollinators with chemicals

F. Raise public awareness of pollinators within the local area



Action 18: Promote the Junior All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 to local schools or youth groups

Action 19: Promote the Pollinator Plan to local businesses & encourage actions/sponsorship

Action 20: Put up signage explaining importance of pollinators and what is being done locally to support the Pollinator Plan

Action 21: Facilitate or deliver training workshops on pollinators and how to protect them



Coming together to create networks of
pollinator friendly habitat

Tidy Towns

Businesses

Local Authorities

Religious
properties

Schools

Residents
Association

Gardens

By providing more food, shelter and safety in our towns and villages, along our transport routes and in farmland we can create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive



TRACKING CHANGE & MEASURING SUCCESS

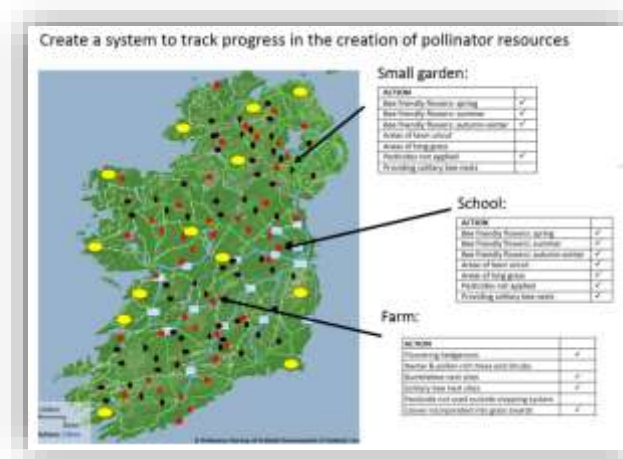
The publication of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan isn't a box-ticking exercise
– measuring success is a crucial part of the Plan

1. Track implementation of the 81 actions in the Plan



There will be a publicly available online management system where those who have responsibility for actions have to log progress once a year

2. Track creation of pollinator habitat/resources



Publicly available online mapping system

3. Track changes in pollinators within the landscape



Tracking progress and recognition for efforts

Action 22: Log any actions you have taken through the publicly available online mapping system called ‘**Actions for Pollinators**’.

RECOGNITION FOR EFFORTS

The screenshot shows the Pollinators Biodiversity Ireland website. The main area features a map of Ireland with a green highlighted region in the south. A sidebar on the right contains the following information:

Add site

Site Information:

Name:

Type:

Date:

Current existing pollinator habitats:

| Habitat type | Wingspan (m) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Grassland (including swards) | <input type="text" value="100"/> |
| Woodland | <input type="text" value="100"/> |
| Shrubland | <input type="text" value="100"/> |
| Other | <input type="text" value="100"/> |

Current existing pollinator habitats:

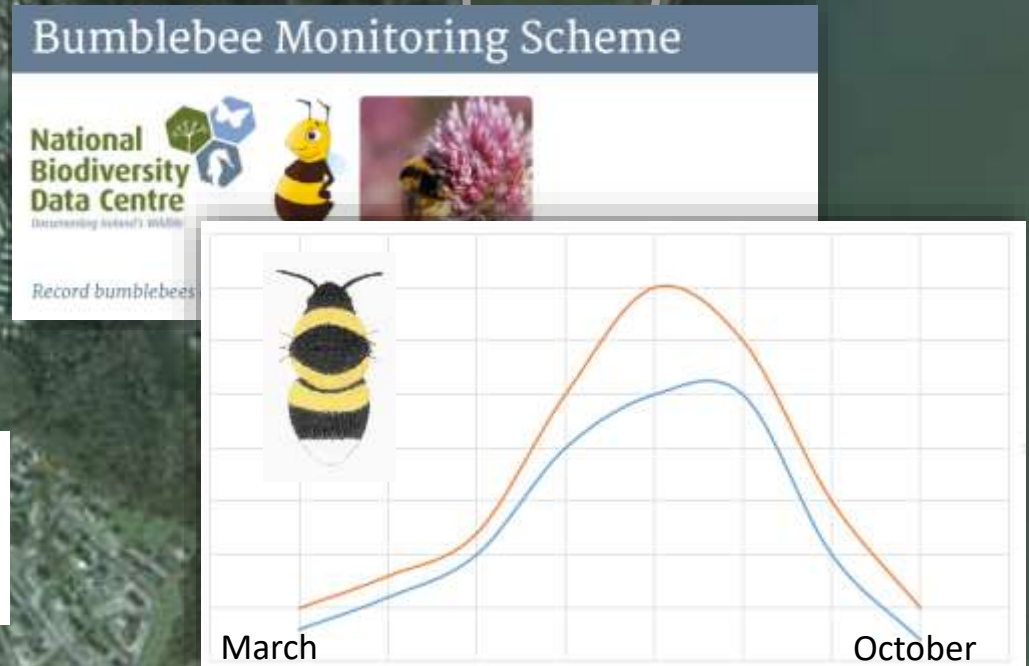
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| Other | <input type="text" value="100"/> |

Action 23: Identify an interested person and set up a bumblebee monitoring scheme walk

<http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/bumblebee-monitoring-scheme/>

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Action 24: Enter the Local Authority pollinator award in the Tidy Towns competition



Pollinator friendly planting: **NATIVE PLANTS**



It is very important that we increase the amount of native plants in our local areas to provide food for bees and other insects

Often we can do this by managing the land in a slightly different way than we have become used to

Maintain hedgerows and grassy banks or verges

Hawthorn (Apr-Jun)
Bramble (May-Sept)
Wild Carrot (Jun-Sept)
Hogweed (Jun-Sept)
Goldenrod (Jul-Sept)
Willowherb (Jun-Sept)
Woundworts (Jul-Sept)
Ivy (Sept-Nov)

Have grassy meadows or areas of long grass

Dandelion (Mar-Oct)
Vetch (Apr-Oct)
Vetchling (May-Aug)
Clovers (May-Oct)
Bird's foot trefoil (Jun-Sept)
Knapweed (Jun-Oct)
Scabious (Jun-Oct)
Self-heal (Jun-Aug)
Yarrow (Jun-Oct)
Thistle (Jun-Oct)
Wild marjoram (Jul-Sept)

Allow small areas to grow wild

Butterbur (Mar-May)
Coltsfoot (Mar-Apr)
Bluebell (Apr-May)
Brassicas (Apr-Aug)
Red Bartsia (Jun-Sept)
Foxglove (Jun-Sept)
Fleabane (Jul-Sept)

Plant more pollinator friendly native trees and shrubs

Hazel (Feb-Apr)
Willow (Mar-May)
Blackthorn (Mar-May)
Hawthorn (Apr-Jun)
Whitebeam (May-Jun)
Rowan (May-Jun)
Crab apple (Jun)
Ivy (Sept-Nov)

Source stock of local provenance where possible

Leave pavements, tracks or grassy edges unsprayed

Dead-nettle (Mar-Nov)
Veronica (Mar-Sept)
Forget-me-not (Apr-Sept)
Geranium (Apr-Oct)
Hawksbeard (Jun-Oct)

These are just examples of the kinds of pollinator friendly native plants that can be encouraged

Pollinator friendly planting: **HORTICULTURAL SPECIES**

These are not exhaustive lists. By observing bees in parks, gardens or even garden centres you will see yourself which flowers they prefer

Important: *In towns and villages non-native horticultural or ornamental plants can be an important food source for pollinators. However, you should **not** plant these in natural or semi-natural habitats. They should also not be planted in farmland (outside of farm gardens).*

Trees/shrubs:

Berberis (April-May)
Broom (March-April)
Ceanothus (April-Sept)
Cotoneaster (May-Aug)
Deutzia (June-July)
Firethorn (May-June)
Forsythia (March-April)
Hebe (June-Oct)
Horse chestnut (May-June)
Lime (June-July)
Mahonia (Dec-May)
Sycamore (April-June)
Tetradium (Aug-Oct)
Viburnum (April-May)
Non-native Willows (Feb-March)
e.g., *Salix aegyptica*, *Salix hastata*
'Wehrhahnii'

Herbs:

Basil (July-Sept)
Borage (April-Oct)
Lavender (June-Aug)
Oregano (June-Aug)
Rosemary (April-June)
Sage (June-Aug)
Thyme (May-Aug)

Fruit trees/bushes:

Apple (April-May)
Cherry (April-May)
Currants (April-May)
Plum (April-May)
Raspberry (June-Aug)

Bulbs:

Snowdrop (Jan-Feb) e.g., *Galanthus nivalis*,
Galanthus elwesii
Crocus (Feb-March)
Muscari armeniacum (March-May)
Allium (June-July)
Single flowered Dahlia, especially
Bishop series (July-November)
Colchium (September-October)

Info Box:

Daffodils or Tulips are not a good source of food for pollinators. Bees will only use Daffodils if there are no other food sources available.

Pollinator friendly planting: **HORTICULTURAL SPECIES**

These are not exhaustive lists. By observing bees in parks, gardens or even garden centres you will see yourself which flowers they prefer

Perennial plants:

Helleborus (Feb-March)
e.g., *Helleborus orientalis*
Comfrey (March-June)
Pulmonaria (March-May)
Calamint (May-Sept)
e.g., *Calamintha nepeta* spp *nepeta*
Catmint (May-Sept)
e.g., *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant', 'Walkers Low'
Lamium (May-July)
e.g., *Lamium* 'Pink Chablis', *Lamium mac.* 'Album', *Lamium galeobdolon*
Poppy (May-Oct)
Rock rose (May-July)
Allium (June-Aug) e.g., *Allium aflatunense*, *Allium christophii*, *Allium giganteum*
Bellflower (June-Sept)
Delphinium (June-July)
Gaillardia (June-Sept)
Helenium (June-Aug) e.g., *Helenium* 'Moerheim Beauty'
Salvia (June-Sept)
e.g., *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', 'May Night', 'East Friesland'
Scabious (June-Sept)
e.g., *Scabious atropurpurea* varieties

Stachys (June-Sept)
e.g., *Stachys officinalis* 'Hummelo'
Viper's bugloss (June-July)
Aster (July-Oct) e.g., *Aster ageratoides* 'Asran', *Aster × frikartii* 'Mönch'
Coneflower (July-Oct)
Globe thistle (July-Aug)
Liatris (July-October) e.g., *Liatris spicata*
Perovskia (July-Oct) e.g., *Perovskia* 'Blue Spire'
Stonecrop (July-Sept) e.g., *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy'
Verbena (July-Oct) e.g., *Verbena bonariensis*
Eupatorium (Aug-Sept) e.g., *Eupatorium atropurpureum*
Heathers (Aug-Sept)
Perovskia (Aug-Sept)

Perennial plants are generally better sources of pollen and nectar than annuals. They are also cost effective as they grow and flourish over the following years

Annual plants:

Californian Poppy
Cerithe major 'purpurascens'
Cornflower
Cosmos
Lavatera
Limnanthes douglasii
Annual poppy
Scabious
Night scented stock
Single sunflowers

Annuals can be useful sources of pollen and nectar for pollinating insects. If you are using annuals you should try to plant single rather than double flowered varieties

Wild flower seed

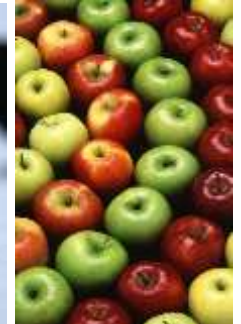
Please consider these important points before buying wildflower seed:

- 1 Wildflower meadows can be created naturally by reducing mowing regimes (Action 2). Overtime this will gradually lead to a flower rich meadow and avoids the need to purchase wild flower seed. This is the recommended option.
- 2 If you do decide to deliberately plant a wildflower meadow with commercially bought seed, it is important to use native species collected and grown on the island of Ireland. Please be aware that not all wildflower seed mixes will be pollinator friendly. Often wildflower seed bought commercially in supermarkets will not be native and may not contain pollinator friendly plants. Creating and managing a wildflower meadow from seed can be costly and requires careful planning and management to have any chance of success. See website for a how-to guide.
- 3 If you are considering "seed bombing" as a quick way of introducing wildflower seed please be aware that it is unlikely to be successful and is not recommended by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. If you do use seed bombs please try to ensure they are made up of native pollinator friendly species collected in Ireland.



CALL TO ACTION

www.pollinators.ie



Thank You

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